

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated June 16, 2004. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 25-27 and 29-46 will remain pending in this application. The changes to the claims are fully supported by the specification and original claims. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's express indication that claims 31-46 are allowed. Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 27, 29, and 30 contain allowable subject. While these claims were objected to, the Examiner indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claim. However, Applicants believe the claim 25 (from which claims 27, 29 and 30 depend) is now in condition for allowance (see below). Hence, claims 27, 29 and 30 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

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Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for purportedly failing to comply with the written restriction requirement.

In response, claim 25 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Hence, the rejection is overcome and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding objection and rejection in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

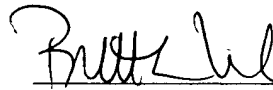
If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 032301.1181.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 032301.1181.

Respectfully submitted,
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